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Prelim Bits 26-05-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

River Kolak

Kolak fisherfolk living along the banks of River Kolak is in distress as chemicals from Vapi industries destroy river catch.

- Kolak River is a river in Gujarat in western India.
- The west flowing river originates in Kaprada taluka.
- Kolak River flows into the Arabian Sea near Udwa.
- Its basin has a maximum length of 50 km.
- It is also connected to Madhuban reservoir of Damanganga River.
- It flows through the north side of Vapi city in Gujarat.
- Kolak village on the bank of River Kolak in Gujarat's Valsad district.
- The village is home to 4,646 people, most of whom rely on fishing for their livelihood.
- The effluent discharge from Vapi's industries is causing pollution of the river.



References

1. [DTE - Critically polluted River Kolak: Kolak fisherfolk in distress](#)

Da Vinci glow

The experts predicted that a 'da Vinci glow' would be visible around the new moon on May 19, 2023.

- The da Vinci glow is a phenomenon in which the crescent moon is on the horizon, but the outline of a full moon is visible.
- The phenomenon usually happens close to sunset.
- On some days, this happens after the sun sets, and the sky is dark but not completely dark.
- This glow is also called *earthshine*, since it occurs due to light reflected from the earth and not the sun.
- The earthshine is the sunlight first reflected by the earth's surface, and then it's reflected by the moon before it reaches our eyes.
- Since it is reflected twice, it is dimmer than the visible part of the moon and thus appears as a faint glow, called the da Vinci glow.
- Earth's clouds are the primary source of this earthshine.

According to NASA, earthshine makes night on the moon 50-times brighter than a full-moon night on the earth.

- Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was the first person to describe the phenomenon in the 16th century and it was named after him.
- Before da Vinci's theory, the 'ashen glow' of the moon was often called the 'old moon in the new moon's arms'.



References

1. [The Hindu - What is da Vinci glow?](#)
2. [CNN - When can you see the moon in the Da Vinci glow](#)
3. [NASA - The Da Vinci Glow](#)

Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

Three Indian U.N. peacekeepers will be honoured posthumously with the Dag

Hammaraskjold Medal for their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

- The Security Council established the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Medal as a posthumous award to members of peacekeeping operations.
- The medal is a tribute to the sacrifice of those who have lost their life as a result of service in peacekeeping operations of UN.
- In 1997, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of peacekeeping, the Security Council held a meeting to honour United Nations peacekeepers.
- The medal is the highest honour awarded to U.N. Peacekeepers.
- In 1998, the first Medal was presented to the family of Dag Hammarskjöld.
- The second medal honoured Commandant René de Labarrière, who was the first peacekeeper to lose his life in a United Nations peacekeeping operation, in 1948.
- The International day of UN Peacekeepers is observed every year on 29 May.
- Each year on Peacekeeper's Day, this medal is awarded at a ceremony at UN headquarters.
- Other Awards given on Peacekeeper's day
 - Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage
 - UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

Dag Hammarskjöld was a Swedish economist and diplomat who served as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations (1953-1961)

- 2023 peacekeeper's day marks the 75th anniversary of the UN Peacekeeping Mission.
- The three Indian U.N. peacekeepers will be honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal this year. They are,
- Border Security Force (BSF) personnel Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Samwali Ram Vishnoi served with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Shaber Taher Ali was employed in a civilian capacity with the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq.

Similar Topics - [Women U.N. Peacekeepers](#), [Group of Friends](#), [UN Peacekeeping Missions and Blue Helmets](#)

References

1. [The Hindu - Indian peacekeepers to be honoured with Dag Hammarskjöld medal](#)
2. [UN - Peacekeeper's Awards](#)

NITI Aayog's Health Index

NITI Aayog's annual 'health index' for the COVID year of 2020-21 was released.

- The annual health index was launched by the NITI Aayog in 2017.
- The Health Index is a weighted composite index based on 24 indicators grouped under the domains of 'health outcomes', 'governance and information', and 'key inputs/ processes'.

- The health index measures the performance of states and UTs on a weighted composite score on 2 parameters -
 - Incremental performance (year-on-year progress)
 - Overall performance.
- The states and UTs are categorised separately as 'larger states', 'smaller states' and UTs and they are then ranked based on their scores.
- The fifth health index (2020-21) report has not been made public yet.
- COVID year 2020-21 assessment report

| Category | Top Performers | Bottom Performers |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Larger States (19) | Kerala (1 st) | Bihar (19 th) |
| | Tamil Nadu (2 nd) | Uttar Pradesh (18 th) |
| | Telangana (3 rd) | Madhya Pradesh (17 th) |
| Smaller States (8) | Tripura (1 st) | Arunachal Pradesh (6 th) |
| | Sikkim (2 nd) | Nagaland (7 th) |
| | Goa (3 rd) | Manipur (8 th) |
| Incremental Performance | Rajasthan | |
| | Uttarakhand | - |
| | Odisha | |
| UTs (8) | Lakshadweep | Delhi |

References

1. [IE - NITI Aayog's Annual Health Index for 2020-21](#)
2. [NITI Aayog - Health Index](#)

Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W)

The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative in a landmark decision.

- Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) is an initiative coordinated by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- G3W aims to establish internationally coordinated monitoring of greenhouse gas fluxes (top-down) to support the provision of the UNFCCC parties and other stakeholders.
- The new global GHG watch will fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated and operational framework.
- The framework will bring all space-based and surface-based observing systems, as well as modelling and data assimilation capabilities, under one roof.
- **Components** - There are 4 main components of G3W
 1. Surface-based and satellite- based observations.
 2. Prior observations.
 3. Near-real time international exchange of input and output data.
 4. Global high-resolution modelling/data assimilation.
- **Output** - The system will provide sustained delivery of monthly global estimates of net GHG fluxes into and out of the atmosphere at a 100 by 100 km resolution.

- **Benefits** - Improved evaluation of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases.
- Indicate their association with the biosphere, the ocean and the permafrost areas.

References

1. [DTE - WMO approves a global tracker for greenhouse gas emissions](#)
2. [WMO - Global Greenhouse Gas Watch \(GGGW\)](#)



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